

# Labor Resources for St. Matthews, South Carolina

## Executive Summary

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This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of St. Matthews, South Carolina. St. Matthews is located in Calhoun County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of St. Matthews.

## Labor Situation at a Glance in St. Matthews, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	85,847	374,532	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	37,230	166,139	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	2,871	11,753	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	7.7%	6.4%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	106	328	22,196
Average Wages	Calhoun County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$621	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for St. Matthews, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	37,230	166,139	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-4,006	-18,043	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	85,847	374,532	4,198,068
Change since 2000	1,337	8,316	186,056
Projected 2010	68,320	240,831	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	42,225	184,609	2,040,261
Female	43,623	189,923	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	18,707	83,974	875,330
Ages 35-49	18,258	79,720	925,330
Ages 50-64	15,258	63,900	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	43,012	189,375	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	29,491	129,209	778,054
Some College	13,749	60,404	500,194
Associate Degree	5,558	24,676	173,428
Bachelors Degree	9,316	42,267	351,526
Post Bachelor	4,666	19,664	178,529

*\*Prime working age group:*  
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

## Employment Characteristics for St. Matthews, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	34,359	154,386	1,906,571

*Total Employment* data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Calhoun County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>12,968</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	68	308	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	13	175	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing		35	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	190	903	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	424	1,266	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	190	717	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.			10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	309	971	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	17	64	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	13	85	7,846
Food manufacturing	132	811	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	685	2,021	40,207
Textile product mills	3	41	9,724
Apparel manufacturing			5,321
Paper manufacturing	21	139	14,710
Printing and related support activities	64	301	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	159	432	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing		17	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>8,770</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1,743</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>2,449</b>	<b>10,272</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>7,892</b>	<b>192,748</b>
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>4,350</b>	<b>186,481</b>

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

### Largest Industries by Total Employment In Calhoun County, SC

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Voridian/Div of Eastman Chemical Co	West Columbia	Plastic materials & resins	650	1966
Devro Inc	Swansea	Edible casings for meat packaging	370	1977
Zeus Industrial Products	Gaston	Fluoropolymer tubing extrusion	131	1995
Morton Custom Plastics	St Matthews	Plastic injection molding	110	1994
Cablecraft Division	St Matthews	Push-pull cables assemblies	90	1982
Golden Kernel Pecan Co	Cameron	Shelled pecans	52	1924
Alaglass Pools	St Matthews	Industrial fiberglass products	50	1987
Cameron Lumber Co	Cameron	Specialty timbers	45	1981
Cameron Bedding & Manufacturing Co	Cameron	Mattresses & box springs	38	1918
Stone Interiors East LLC	Gaston	Granite countertops	28	2001

### Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

## Availability of Labor

### Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	37,230	166,139	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-4,006	-18,043	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	43%	44%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	2,871	11,753	139,607
Unemployment Rate	7.7%	6.4%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

*Unemployment* reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

### Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	106	328	22,196
Manufacturing	99	286	19,196
Distribution	7	41	1,213
Service	-	1	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	11,770	48,389	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their resident are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

## Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

<b>Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Calhoun County, SC</b>	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	381
Data Processing Technology	180
Engineering Technologies (Total)	154
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	68
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	334
Industrial Electronics	44
HVAC	50
Precision Production (Total)	131
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	97

<b>Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees</b>		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

## Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Calhoun County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$621	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$32,306	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

\*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

\*\* Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Calhoun County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$45,911	\$39,027
Wood product	***	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	***	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	***	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	***	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	***	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	***	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

\*\*\*Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Occupational Wages In St. Matthews and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Calhoun Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$7.36	\$8.39	\$9.10
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$6.25	\$8.43	\$11.73
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$6.89	\$9.14	\$10.53
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	\$6.50	\$7.54	\$8.49
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$11.16	\$14.53	\$17.30
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.28	\$17.73	\$22.53
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$11.41	\$12.38	\$13.47
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$12.66	\$16.02	\$19.13
Machinists	\$11.77	\$14.94	\$16.63
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.35	\$12.93	\$16.16
Molding & Casting Machine Op	*	*	*
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.10	\$7.40	\$8.62
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.20	\$10.33	\$11.58
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.15	\$15.62	\$18.02
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$12.30	\$15.78	\$18.86
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$6.21	\$7.89	\$9.66
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Calhoun Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	\$67,760	\$76,060	\$88,260
Computer Programmers	*	*	*
Engineers, NEC	\$70,360	\$75,740	\$85,860
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$32,120	\$44,000	\$56,040
Industrial Engineers	*	*	*
Mechanical Engineers	*	*	*

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

\* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available